Anderston baths. The whole expense is estimated not to exceed 150*l*.

Miscellaneous.—Messrs. Taylor and Son, bell-founders, Loughborough, have received an order to take down and recast the fifteen bells in the tower of the Royal Exchange, London.——Lord Ward has accepted the presidency of the Worcester School of Design.——The new workhouse for Merthyr is, we hear, at last contracted for by Messrs. Thomas and Norris, of Cardiff.——The Belfast Gas Company have laid down mains in Victoria-street and Corporation-street, to meet the wants of that rapidly-extending portion of Belfast.——It is proposed to erect a new public building at Haslingden.——The first stone of a new school-house, at Hilltop, Lingard's, chapelry of Slaithwaite, near Huddersfield, was laid on Whit-Tuesday: it is intended to accommodate 200 children.——The contract for the erection of gas works at Droylsden has been let to Mr. Stephen Moore, of Manchester, for 392*l*.; and that for gasometer, retorts, and other iron work, to Mr. Glasgow, of Manchester, for 500*l*.——A new parish school was opened at Falkland (N. B.) on Thursday week.——It is stated that a large number of the best and most experienced of the men employed in the extensive slate-quarries in North Wales are preparing to emigrate, during the ensuing summer, to the United States. The rate of payment in the American quarries, it is said, is nearly three times greater than the amount which can be realised in the Welsh workings. Several instances have recently occurred where men who left their native land deeply involved in debt have been enabled to remit the amount of their debts in full.

LIGHTING THE STAGE.—NEW THEATRE IN PARIS.

THE seeds sown by THE BUILDER germinate.

A singular edifice has silently sprung up in one of the least frequented streets in Paris, and is thus described by *Galignani*:—"It is a large theatre, externally in the Ionic style, capable of containing 3,000 persons. The portion of the house intended for the public is a large elliptical vaulted hall, 126 feet by 66 in surface, and about 55 in altitude, with a ground floor, gallery, and two upper ones, for spectators. The stage, situated in a semi-circular recess at the extremity of the transverse axis, encroaches upon the pit in a circular curve, so that the whole stage may be said to form a circle. The orchestra, instead of being placed between the spectators and the actors, is situated in the upper portion of the recess aforesaid, and is invisible to the public, though visible to the director of the band, who is seated in front of the stage, where the prompter generally sits. Besides this band, a second one, equally invisible to the public, may occupy a circular gallery surmounting the lustre, accessible by a winding staircase descending between iron bars from the vaulted ceiling of the house in the boldest way imaginable. This second orchestra is calculated to produce singular acoustic effects, hitherto unknown to the musical and theatrical world.

The stage is raised 6 feet above the pit: the space allotted to representation is 30 feet broad and 48 feet deep. But the most singular part of M. Barthélemy's contrivances consists in his curtains and back scenes, which, owing to the form adopted for the stage, are curvilinear also; notwithstanding which, by means of cylinders of a peculiar construction, they are made to rise or drop as if they were flat. He has, moreover, introduced transparent as well as opaque scenes, so that extraordinary effects of perspective and distance are produced by different strata of gauze intercepting the view. Vertical as well as horizontal cylinders are used; and the powerful illusions created by the simultaneous rolling and unrolling of partly opaque and partly transparent scenery leave those of ordinary theatres far behind. These contrivances have, of course, called for important modifications in the system of lighting both the house and the stage. There are no footlights, and the whole space is illuminated from above by an ingenious combination of reflectors. The house is, besides, so constructed that theatrical representations may be given by the sole aid of daylight, transmitted through panes of coloured glass."

By reference to Vol. V. of THE BUILDER, p. 281, article on "Scenery and Decoration of Theatres—Lighting the Stage," it will be found that the idea of lighting the stage exclusively from above was suggested by ourselves in 1847, on the basis of experiments actually and successfully made some years before in a provincial theatre in Scotland; and that the substitution of dioramic for ordinary scenery formed part of the entire scheme. Since, an improved mode of lighting was tried in Her Majesty's Theatre with brilliant effect and success, by aid of the electric light, as we noted at the time.

FRENCH PLAYS.—Madlle. Rachel, at the St. James's Theatre, is delighting every lover of fine acting. For purity and elevation of style, high finish, and power of expressing the most subtle emotions, this great actress stands alone.

WILD ESTIMATING.—Will you do me the favour to insert in THE BUILDER the following amounts of tenders received for finishing eight houses, in Hammersmith, New-road, for Mr. J. A. Jones:—

Cooper and Bottomly	£898 0 0
Emming and Wilson	791 10 0
Brittain	673 17 0
Cowland	650 0 0
Jacob	649 0 0
Gell	470 0 0

—JOHN THOMAS, Surveyor to the works.

TOMB OVER A GATEWAY AT VERONA.

TOMB OF GUGLIELMO DI CASTELBARCO. VERONA.

ANNEXED is a view of the tomb of Guglielmo di Castelbarco, which is constructed over a gateway beside the Church of S. Anastasia, in Verona. It has considerable elegance, and, as a piece of masonry, is very remarkable. It is ascribed to the year of our Lord 1284.

METROPOLITAN BUILDINGS BILL AND THE INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS.

IT will be remembered that when this Bill was before Parliament, a deputation from the Institute of British Architects waited upon Lord Seymour, to explain the views of a committee of that body, as embodied in a report. His lordship received the deputation courteously, and, in order to fortify himself with opinions on the subject, suggested that a general meeting of the members should be held, to consider further that report, preparatory to the introduction of a fresh amended Bill. On Thursday, 19th, a special general meeting was held at the rooms of the institute; but, although a circular had been sent to every member, and ample notice given, there were not twenty members present. Mr. Hardwick, R.A., took the chair, and the meeting proceeded to discuss the committee's report, and the proposed alterations in the Bill, section by section. The intended court of summary jurisdiction met with general approval, as a great improvement on the present system; and there was an animated discussion on the question, whether it was expedient that the presiding judge should be a barrister, with an

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